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Media Release



25 January 2019

News Editor

A GREEN NATION TAKES A PROACTIVE COMMUNITY

- **South West takes stock of 10 years of building a green district and residents get to contribute their say**
- **Interactive and informative Zero Waste booths to engage and educate the community**
- **Youth put fresh spin on environmental challenges, using gamification to encourage a change in littering behaviour**
- **Seven first-time winners for South West ECo Awards and Public Health Awards to recognise the community's environmental efforts**

Environmental sustainability takes all hands on deck, and ECo Day Out 2019 @ South West, taking place on 27 January 2019 at Hong Kah North Community Club, will celebrate the community's green efforts and rally the community towards collective action. There, residents will be able to provide their input in a public consultation exercise for the South West District's sustainability masterplan.

Residents for the Environment

2 ECo Day Out 2019 @ South West will be an opportunity for South West District residents to shape the district's sustainability masterplan for the next decade. The ECo Plan South West, introduced in 2009 with the aim of building

a **Cool, Clean, Green, Caring** and **Proactive** community and the theme of 'Tomorrow Starts Today', will be coming to a close after 10 years of guiding environmental efforts and programmes in the South West District.¹

3 In preparation for its conclusion, a new and improved ECo Plan South West is under way to chart the next decade. Not only will residents be able to look back at the sustainability efforts and progress over the past 10 years, they will also have a say in the upcoming ECo Plan and a role in creating the green district they envision.

4 To understand from residents what they envision for a green South West District, there will be an exhibition panel where residents can cast their vote on environmental issues that matter to them and provide input, such as sharing some of their own green practices. This is the South West Community Development Council (CDC)'s first public consultation for the next ECo Plan South West, as part of gathering ground feedback in its conceptualisation. Other efforts include organising focus group discussions and seeking views from key stakeholders to ensure an ECo Plan that represents the voices and views of the whole community. In the coming year, residents will continue to have opportunities to contribute their say to the CDC, through collaterals and other channels.

5 "We're inviting our South West residents to shape and co-create the green future of the district with us. Although we have made good progress in the last decade, much more remains to be done as Singapore aims to become a zero-waste and sustainable nation. The collective voice of our residents will energise and drive our next eco plan and continued efforts for a vibrant, green and sustainable South West," Mayor Low says.

¹ Over 10 years under the ECo Plan South West, the South West CDC has successfully rolled out 90 programmes in the district and reached out to over 716,000 residents, made possible through the support from our volunteers, schools, community and corporate partners. More information will be shared at a later date when we unveil the new ECo Plan.

Youth for the Environment

6 Youth can make great strides in sustainability, as they are key drivers of change with their dynamism and aspirations. One platform for youth to test their ideas is the Love Your Living Environment Youth Challenge. Jointly organised by South West Community Development Council (CDC) and the Municipal Services Office (MSO)², youth were invited to pilot ideas to improve their shared living environment by tackling environmental and municipal issues in the community. Issues include cleanliness and pests in public spaces, cluttered common corridors, and animal and bird issues³.

7 The Challenge saw positive response from youth teams. Of the 15 teams that pitched their ideas, five teams received funding of up to \$10,000 each to implement their ideas. Prototypes of their ideas will be displayed at ECo Day Out 2019 @ South West.

8 One project is the PollBins, designed by a team of students from the National University of Singapore. To keep public spaces litter-free, these Engineering Faculty students came up with the idea of gamifying the act of binning litter, using a pair of specially decorated rubbish bins. Members of the public binned their litter in one out of the two PollBins to express opinions or preferences. Apart from making the act of binning litter a fun process, it encouraged proper waste disposal habits among residents. With a more mindful approach towards throwing away rubbish, it is also hoped that residents will take steps to reduce what they throw away, and opt to reduce, reuse and recycle instead.

9 “Littering makes community spaces look unappealing and creates breeding grounds for bad odours and diseases. This is a situation we want to prevent in Singapore. It was encouraging to see people take time out to interact with the PollBin. We also noticed a decrease in litter around the area! From this

² The Love Your Living Environment Youth Challenge is also supported by the National Environment Agency (NEA), Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA), Housing Development Board (HDB) and Jurong-Clementi Town Council (JRTC).

³ Please refer to the Love Your Living Environment factsheet for details on the Challenge.

Challenge, we learnt that littering is a habit and that to fix it, everyone – from the community to the individual – has a part to play,” said team leader Arka Ray, 22 years old.

Whole-of-Community for the Environment

10 In line with 2019 being the Year of Zero Waste, the annual eco-carnival will educate and empower residents to reduce their waste through interactive showcases and hands-on ‘Zero Waste’-themed activities, to show residents how they too can adopt zero-waste habits in their daily life. Residents can look forward to games, hands-on activities, photo booths and DIY workshops with recyclables as fun ways to learn about reducing waste. Some of these include drawing recyclable electronic items on chalkboards to identify recyclable e-waste, creating DIY watering systems using recyclables, and upcycling plastic bottles into planters.

11 The 14th South West District Public Health Awards and 9th South West ECo Awards will also be presented at ECo Day Out 2019 @ South West. The awards recognise exemplary organisations for their efforts toward first-class public health standards, and their contributions to the ECo Plan South West. This year sees seven (7) first-time winners⁴. One of them is winner of the Corporate Category of the South West ECo Awards, ONE°15 Marina Sentosa Cove, for its dedication to marine life conservation and sustainability. Its efforts include organising annual marine clean-up exercises to remove litter from the seabed which impedes marine life. Last year’s clean-up exercise involved more than 100 volunteers including staff and partners, which saw over 200kg of trash collected and cleared from the seabed.

12 The South West District’s annual environment and recycling drive, **ECo Day Out 2019 @ South West** is organised by the South West CDC, together with National Environment Agency (South West Regional Office), Bukit Gombak Grassroots Organisations (GROs), and Hong Kah North GROs. This

⁴ Please refer to Annex A for the full list of winners.

annual event to celebrate environmental efforts in the South West District will be graced by Guest of Honour, Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and Ministry of Health Dr Amy Khor this year, and hosted by Mayor of the South West District, Ms Low Yen Ling.

13 Into its 14th year, ECo Day Out 2019 @ South West will see residents redeeming groceries such as rice and packet noodles in exchange for their recyclables. As of 2018, the district has collected close to 750 tonnes of recyclables over 13 years since its launch in 2006. At ECo Day Out 2019 @ South West, residents can also bring down their e-waste to redeem Challenger vouchers as part of the newly launched Recycle Our E-waste @ South West.

14 Details of the event are as follows:

Event : ECo Day Out 2019 @ South West
Date : Sunday, 27 January 2019
Time : 8.30 am – 12.00 pm **(Media is invited at 8.30 am)**
Venue : Hong Kah North Community Club
30 Bukit Batok Street 31
Singapore 659440
Guest of Honour : Dr Amy Khor
Senior Minister of State, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and Ministry of Health
Host : Ms Low Yen Ling
Mayor of South West District

15 We would like to invite your reporter and photographer/TV crew to the **ECo Day Out 2019 @ South West**. Interviews can be arranged upon request. Please contact our media liaison officer for queries. We look forward to receiving you and your crew/photographer.

Media Liaison Officers

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PROGRAMME

Time	Programme
8.50 am	Arrival of Host, Mayor Low Yen Ling
9.00 am	Arrival of GOH, Dr Amy Khor
9.05 am	Welcome Address by Mayor Low
9.15 am	Speech by Dr Amy Khor
9.25 am	Kick-starting Our Future South West Community Consultation
9.40 am	Presentation of 9 th South West ECo Awards and 14 th South West District Public Health Awards
9.50 am	Tour of Exhibition Booths & ECo Plan South West 2030 Panel Booths include: - RE-WIRED , a campaign by NTU students to encourage the repair, reuse, trade-in, resale, donation or recycling of e-waste. There will be a photo booth with e-waste photo props, and a chalkboard for residents to draw

Time	Programme
	<p>recyclable e-waste for education on e-waste recycling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - E-waste Collection Booth with PC Dreams, as part of Recycle Our E-waste @ South West. Residents can also learn more about e-waste through games. - Recycling in a Garden, with a DIY workshop on making a watering system using recyclables. Community gardeners will also share on reusing items for gardening purposes. Residents can also try herb butter made from herbs grown in community gardens. - South West ECo Plan 2030 Panel, where residents can share their green vision for the future District. - MSO Love Your Living Environment Challenge: PollBins Showcase - Drink from Tap, a campaign by NTU students to reduce plastic waste by encouraging the consumption of tap water over single-use bottled water
10.15 am	Viewing of Clean Up South West! Redemption Counter
10.30 am	Departure of GOH and Mayor

About the South West Community Development Council (CDC)

The South West Community Development Council (CDC) was formed on 24 November 2001, with the mission to Assist the Needy, Bond the People and Connect the Community.

Through local help programmes, the South West CDC provides assistance to help the less fortunate in our community. The South West CDC also organises projects and programmes to promote community bonding and social cohesion. The South West CDC adopts the "Many Helping Hands" approach to encourage community ownership among residents, community partners and corporations to realise its vision of "Owning Your Community".

Annex A

The South West District Public Health Awards and South West ECo Awards recognise exemplary ground-up green efforts of corporate and community partners in the District. This year saw a total of 40 nominations.

Winners of South West District Public Health Awards 2018

32 nominations were received in 2018. There are six (6) first-time winners and one (1) repeated winner.

S/No	South West District 3 Public Health Goals	Description	Sub-categories	Winners
1	A Litter-Free Environment	Partners who have contributed to an environment that is litter-free	(A) Most “Litter-Free” Estate (RC) (B) Highest Level of Ownership (Division)	(A) [1 st time] Blk 820 Jurong West Street 81 (Nanyang Division) (B) Bukit Batok Division
2	Clean, Dry & Sparkling Public Toilets	The cleanest toilets in the South West District	(C) Shopping Malls (Division) (D) Hawker Centres (Division) (E) Coffee-shops (Division)	(C) [1 st time] Blk 321 Clementi (Clementi Division) (D) [1 st time] Jurong West Hawker Centre & Market (Boon Lay Division) (E) [1 st time] Blk 494 Jurong West St 41 (Jurong Central Division)
3	A	Effective and	(F) Highest	(F) [1 st time] Bukit

S/No	South West District 3 Public Health Goals	Description	Sub-categories	Winners
	Community That Does Not Spread Bugs	innovative initiatives which have contributed to a decrease in mosquito breeding or dengue cases.	Level of Ownership (Division) (G) “Most Dengue Free” Division	Batok East Division (G) [1 st time] Yuhua Division

Winners of South West ECo Awards 2018

8 nominations from Community and Corporate partners were received.

Category	Winner	Key Achievements
Community	Juying Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Holistic Environmental Education (EE) for the school ✓ Significant number of unique, ground-up environmental initiatives such as the ‘Newspaper Recycling and Tetra Pak Recycling Programme’ ✓ Food waste management through a food compost and water conservations actions using reservoir water tank for hydroponics farm ✓ Sharing of environmental information during assembly talks by EE committee members ✓ Biodiversity modules conducted to impart understanding of biodiversity to students ✓ Green ambassadors in every class to raise awareness about the environment ✓ Environment topics weaved into every day learning and subjects ✓ Won several awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community in Bloom Award 2018 (Gold) - SEC-Starhub School Green Awards (SGA) 2018 - Singapore Books of Record
Corporate	[1 st -time]	✓ Long-term commitment to the protection of

(Commendation Award)	ONE°15 Marina Sentosa Cove	<p>marine life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Led a marina clean up over land and sea with over 100 volunteers, collected over 200 kg of trash ✓ Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2018 with Tropical Marine Science Institute (TMSI) of NUS in a sustainability project to enhance marine biodiversity, develop a coral garden, and allocate resources for research and development purposes
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